BX
e
80

GOD
354.80954
Bom1Pap
110076

00110076

BOMBAY BRANCH
OF THE
Royal Asiatic Society.

00110076

Digitized with financial assistance from

H T Parekh
FOUNDATION

An Initiative by
HDFC
WITH YOU, RIGHT THROUGH

on 08 January, 2019

SELECTIONS FROM THE RECORDS OF THE BOMBAY GOVERNMENT.

No. LXXV.—New Series.

PAPERS

RELATIVE TO THE INTRODUCTION

OF

REVISED RATES OF ASSESSMENT

INTO

THE WALWA TALOOKA

OF THE

SATTARA COLLECTORATE.

Bombay:

PRINTED FOR GOVERNMENT

AT THE EDUCATION SOCIETY'S PRESS, BYCULLA.

1863.

No. 1376 of 1863.

Revenue Department.

From W. Hart, Esq.,
Revenue Commissioner, S. D.,

To the Secretary to Government.

Sir,—I have the honour to submit the accompanying report (No. 116, dated the 5th instant), received through the Collector of Sattara from Major Anderson, Superintendent of Revenue Survey, proposing revised rates of assessment for the entire Walwa talooka of the Sattara collectorate according to its original boundaries.

2. Mr. Chapman, in submitting this report, writes as follows (No. 639, dated 9th May 1863):—

"Major Anderson does not consider the Walwa to be equally favoured with the adjacent Kurar talooka in point of climate or communications.

"2. While therefore taking the Kurar rates which have recently received the sanction of Government* as his standard, he proposes adopting the 2nd class rates of that talooka as the first class Walwa ones, the third for the second, and so on down to the 5th. According to this arrangement Rs. 2-10 will be the maximum rates in lieu of Rs. 3, and so on in the same proportion. With regard to the sixth class or hill villages one rupee per acre has been fixed as a maximum, as was done in the case of the Kurar and Targaum talookas.

* Resolution No. 693, dated 4th March 1863, Revenue department.

"3. The financial results are that there will be an increase on the actual realizable revenue in excess of that of last year of Rs. 18,886. Land of the assessed value of Rs. 9,170 is waste, and judging from what

New assessment on occupied land.....	Rs.	2,53,491
Collected from the same land in 1861-62.....		2,34,605
Total..	Rs.	18,886

has taken place elsewhere, this will be immediately taken up. It may therefore be assumed that the total realizable revenue of the talooka will be some Rs. 28,056 in excess of that previously collected.

Rs.	18,886
	9,170
Rs.	28,056

"4. Major Anderson has annexed a statement from which it will be seen that the price of the principal grains has about trebled within the last twelve years. Throughout the country a very great revolution, the importance of which we are as yet, perhaps, far from realizing, has and is taking place in this respect. It is a common saying that the ryots can now meet the Government demands by the sale of their straw, and are not compelled to bring their corn into the market at all. We need then be under no apprehension that our revised rates are excessive. On the contrary it is, perhaps, a question whether they are sufficiently high to meet the just demands of Government on the soil.

"5. With reference to the remarks contained in Major Anderson's 7th paragraph, the Collector begs to state that when visiting the Walwa talooka last season he was much struck with what appeared to him its extraordinary cotton-growing capabilities. He accordingly wrote to Dr. Forbes for a supply of New Orleans seed. He hopes to revisit the talooka at the sowing season, about the end of next month, and will use his best efforts to ensure a fair trial being given to the experiment of growing this description of produce.

"6. It only occurs to the Collector to suggest that Government should reserve to themselves the right of increasing the assessment in the proportion of one anna in the rupee for local improvements and schools. In talookas hitherto surveyed the right to only half an anna has been reserved."

3. I beg to state my general concurrence in Major Anderson's proposals, which are also approved by Mr. Chapman, and I solicit the early sanction of Government to the proposed new rates, to admit of their being introduced during the current season.

4. The observations in paragraph 5 of Mr. Chapman's memorandum above transcribed and in paragraph 7 of Major Anderson's report are interesting and merit the attention of Government. I would suggest that Mr. Chapman should be furnished by Government with some of the Peruvian cotton seed, supplies of which have recently been placed in the hands of some of the other Collectors in this division. The Collector will himself be able to assist cultivators in obtaining New Orleans cotton seed in any quantity that may be required.

5. With respect to the suggestion made in the 6th paragraph of Mr. Chapman's memorandum, I think that in this as in all similar cases it should be explained to the people that the settlement now made affects only the claim of Government upon them for imperial revenue, and is not intended to preclude such taxation for *local* purposes as may be necessary; with a guarantee, however, that the tax on land for such local purposes shall not at any time during the thirty years' settlement bear more than a certain maximum proportion to the imperial land revenue. The maximum I would propose for such local cases is described in paragraph 10 of my letter No. 1427, dated 21st June 1862, to which letter and its continuations (No. 1884, dated 4th August, and No. 2348, dated 22nd September 1862), with their accompaniments, I respectfully beg the early attention of Government, as there is no subject of more vital importance to the progress of this country than that which is discussed in them, viz. the best means of teaching the people to help themselves in matters of local improvement, instead of remaining as heretofore as dependent on Government for every improvement in their condition as if they were children or idiots.

I have the honour to be, &c.

W. Hart,
Revenue Commissioner, S. D.

Camp Mahabuleshwur, 15th May 1863.

No. 116 of 1863.

From Major W. C. Anderson,
Supt. of Revenue Survey and Assessment, S. M. C.,

To F. S. Chapman, Esq.,
Collector of Sattara.

Sir,—I have the honour to forward the following report on the revised rates of assessment I propose for the entire old Walwa talooka of the Sattara collectorate, comprising 103 Government villages. Several alterations have been made in the boundaries of the talooka in the course of the last few months, but it will be more simple to deal with it according to the old boundaries.

2. This talooka is the southern of the western talooka of Sattara. It is bounded on the south and south-west by the river Warna from near its source on the western ghauts to its confluence with the Krishna in the south-eastern corner of the district; on the east and north-east it is mainly bounded by the river Krishna, a few villages only being situated on the east or left bank of that river; on the north it is bounded by the Kurar talooka, into which the old boundary of the Walwa talooka projects considerably, even up to within some seven miles of the town of Kurar; on the western half of the northern boundary the Walwa talooka is separated from the Kurar talooka by a lofty spur of the western ghauts which immediately overhangs the Warna. The talooka for some fifteen miles to the westward is thus reduced to a mere strip of country frequently not more than three miles wide.

3. This talooka is thus composed of the country situated in the angle between the Warna and Krishna rivers. The eastern part near the confluence is a dead plain, generally of black soil of very superior quality. Proceeding westward the character of the country

becomes more hilly, small off-shoots from the great spurs of the ghauts occur, tracts of "mal" or stony land also become much more common.

4. The western part of the talooka is exceedingly hilly. The great spur of the ghauts separating this talooka from that of Kurar, which must be from 1,200 to 1,500 feet high above the plain, breaks up into a number of smaller spurs which take up the greater part of the interval between the Warna and the northern boundary.

5. As regards fall of rain a great variety of climate is met with. On the western ghauts and for some miles down the Warna valley the fall is too heavy for any dry-crop cultivation except that of the hill or uncontinuous kind. In proceeding eastward the fall of rain becomes more and more moderate and seasonable, till towards the eastern centre of the district the general average of the rains is all that could be desired for the most successful prosecution of dry-crop cultivation of the most superior kind.

6. There is a good deal of turee or rice land and of bhagaet or garden land in the centre and west of the talooka, the latter watered both from wells and from "paths" or watercourses led from streams. The cultivation of sugarcane is carried on to a very considerable extent.

7. Some cotton is grown in the Walwa talooka in the eastern villages. The soil and climate from analogy I should there imagine to be particularly favourable to the cotton plant, but the high prices of grain and fodder commonly prevalent in these parts must render cotton a less paying crop than grain when the cotton market is in its ordinary state. The outturn of New Orleans cotton per acre is, however, at least 50 per cent. more in value than that of native cotton, and should the attempt which you have informed me you propose to make to introduce that variety prove successful, some considerable addition to the supply of cotton might be expected from this and adjacent districts; for there is much land belonging to the Kolapoor state and jaghcers and to the Sanglee and Meeruj jagheers where I feel certain New Orleans cotton would grow well and prove a paying crop if the prejudices of the people could be

overcome, and this can be only done by showing them that the cotton will grow and pay. Once introduce New Orleans cotton successfully in the Walwa talooka and the cultivation of it will of itself extend into the adjacent districts in the same manner as it has extended from the Dharwar talookas into the included jagheers and adjacent districts.

8. The Walwa talooka is traversed from north to south by the made-road from Kolapoor to Sattara, from which a cleared branch of about ten miles communicates with Batee Seeraleh. These are the only made-roads in the district. The eastern and central part is indeed generally of sufficiently level surface to admit of cart traffic by the ordinary country tracks during nine months of the year. The main lines of export are two—to the east for rice and ghaut produce to the great bazars of Sanglee and Meeruj, and to the coast for grain and oil-seed produce. The communication with the coast is either by the circuitous route of Kurar and the Koombarleh ghaut to Chiploon, or by bullock track *vid* Mulkapoor (a large entrepot in the Kolapoor state down the Amba ghaut to the tidal part at Rajapoor), or by a second bullock track which follows the left bank of the Warna and descends the Teoora ghaut to Sungmeshwur—another tidal port in the Rutnagherry collectorate.

9. In ready means of communication with great markets the bulk of the old Walwa talooka is decidedly inferiorly situated to the Kurar talooka, with the exception of the northern portion which projects into the vicinity of Kurar itself and is nearly on a par with the villages south of that place.

10. The people of the Walwa talooka appear on the whole to be prosperous. Their assessment hitherto has certainly been light on the average compared with that which has existed hitherto in the neighbouring talooka of Kurar or in Tasgaum (some villages of which are contiguous to the Walwa boundary) while under the rule of the chief previous to the lapse in 1848. There are indeed great inequalities to be found both in the case of entire villages and in that of individual assessments, but on the whole the old assessment is beyond all doubt low compared with that which has prevailed in contiguous districts, and this I attribute to the distance from Sattara.

In the talookas near the capital we find the assessment without exception to have been run up under the former rule to the highest point. In the more distant talookas, such as Beejapoor and Punderpoor, we found the revenue management to have been very lax, the distance from the capital permitting the district and village officials to settle matters among themselves with much less check or interference on the part of the head-quarter officials than would be experienced in districts nearer home.

11. I have obtained complete accounts for all the villages of the Walwa talooka since the accession of British rule, of which the following statement is an abstract as regards the Government land. The areas have been deduced from a conversion of the beegas of the former survey into acres:—

Years.	Occupied.	Loanee Tota or Permanent Reductions.	Remissions on account of Poverty, &c.	Realizations.
	Acres.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1847-48	110,711	31,986	13,031	2,10,768
1848-49	108,499	31,820	28,073	1,98,458
1849-50	108,738	30,163	40,294	1,87,875
1850-51	108,921	29,272	12,984	2,15,463
1851-52	109,189	28,637	36,348	1,91,781
1852-53	109,776	27,968	24,495	2,05,076
1853-54	108,643	27,742	9,506	2,20,063
1854-55	110,012	27,792	3,900	2,26,415
1855-56	110,232	28,168	2,524	2,26,419
1856-57	110,370	28,058	2,189	2,28,943
1857-58	111,409	27,834	21,425	2,10,686
1858-59	112,312	27,743	1,994	2,31,086
1859-60	113,012	27,676	4,134	2,30,051
1860-61	114,264	27,639	2,423	2,33,842
1861-62	113,711	27,661	1,470	2,34,605

12. The fluctuations in the occupied area above shown are exceedingly small. Little reliance, however, is to be placed upon this part of the statement, as, from the classification returns made out in the field for the majority of the villages last year (1861-62) and for the remainder in the present year, the area of Government land

actually occupied amounts to 157,129 acres, or more than one-fourth in excess of the area brought to account in 1861-62. When it is considered that no less than 10,777 acres of the above area consist of garden and rice land, very much of which is of most excellent quality, and that of the remaining dry-crop land a considerable proportion is fine black soil, it is evident that the pressure of the old assessment (Rs. 1-7-11 per acre) on the ascertained occupied area could not be heavy on the average, though faulty distribution might, and in fact did beyond all doubt, cause it to press very unequally.

13. The remissions in the early years of our tenure of the district were very heavy. About 1853-54 a stricter system of management was introduced generally through the collectorate, and the annual amount of remissions rapidly decreased. In the exceptional year 1857-58 alone were they heavy. In this year the rains failed to a great extent in this talooka. The prices prevailing twelve and fifteen years back, added to inequalities of assessment, may have rendered the heavy remissions then granted necessary. At the present time prices are at least double what they were then, and the revenue realized of late years must on the average have pressed very lightly.

14. I do not consider that any villages of the Walwa talooka have advantages of climate and communications together equal to those of the 1st class of the Kurar talooka, the maximum dry-crop rate of which was fixed at Rs. 3. On the whole the northern or 1st class villages of Walwa appear to me to require rates corresponding to those of the 2nd class of Kurar, namely, Rs. 2-10 per acre maximum dry-crop. For the eastern and central portions of the talooka, constituting the 2nd class, rates similar to those of the 3rd class of Kurar will, it appears to me, prove suitable, and so on up to the ghauts, the rates for the villages corresponding in westerly position to those of Kurar being in each class fixed on the same standard as those of the next lowest class in Kurar down to the 4th class. For the 5th or lowest class, excluding hill villages, consequently I propose rates one step lower than for the 5th class in Kurar.

15. For the hill villages of Walwa I propose rates identical with the hill villages of Targaum south of the Koeena river. They are contiguous to them and identically situated in every way. In fixing the above rates my intention has been to adopt for villages similarly situated, as regards climate, with Kurar villages, rates one class lower than those sanctioned for their corresponding Kurar villages on account of inferiority of advantages as regards communications.

16. The following statement shows the estimated result of the imposition of the above rates, the number of village in each class, the maximum rate under each head of dry-crop, garden, and rice land, and the revenue realizable is shown in comparison with the realizations of last year:—

Class.	Number of Villages.	Maximum Dry Crop Rates.	Maximum Rice Land and Garden Rates.	Total Collections in 1861-62 on Occupied Land.	Estimated Revenue under Survey Rates of Occupied Land.	Survey Assessment of Government Arable Unoccupied Waste.	Survey Kumal or Assessment of Government Occupied and Unoccupied Arable Waste.
		Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1	10	2 10 0	8 0 0	64,163	62,873	2,166	65,029
2	37	2 6 0	7 8 0	1,28,664	1,46,756	4,437	1,51,193
3	11	2 2 0	7 0 0	13,958	13,639	379	14,018
4	15	1 14 0	7 0 0	14,811	16,984	418	17,402
5	12	1 10 0	6 0 0	9,635	10,223	735	10,598
6	18	1 0 0	5 0 0	2,909	3,026	1,395	4,421
Total..	103	....	....	2,34,605	2,53,491	9,170	2,62,661

17. The villages of the 1st class are those adjacent to the Kurar talooka in the valley of the Krishna, and the high standard of the old assessment of that talooka appears to have extended in some degree to these villages. In this class the new assessment involves a decrease, namely, from Rs. 64,163 to Rs. 62,873. In the 2nd class the new assessment effects an increase of from Rs. 1,28,664

to Rs. 1,46,756. These villages comprise the whole of the south-eastern and central part of the talooka to a little to the westward of the Kolapoor and Sattara made-road. They are contiguous on the east to some of the villages of the Tasgaum talooka of Belgaum, the maximum dry-crop rate in which was Rs. 2. These villages I settled in 1852-53, and the new assessment was considered to be extra-ordinarily low. Prices are now double what they were then.* The climate of the central part of Walwa is decidedly more certain than that of Tasgaum generally. In the better class of soils our standard of classification is now about one anna in the rupee higher than it was when Tasgaum was classed, so that the difference in the assessment of corresponding soils of the better kind in the two talookas will be more than is represented by the difference in the maximum rate, six annas, or Rs. 2-6 for Walwa against Rs. 2 in Tasgaum. The remaining classes (the 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th) call for no particular remark. They pay at present but a fraction more on the average than they did fifteen years ago, and the small fluctuations in the assessment and collections show that even under the low prices then prevalent the assessment was far from overwhelming. The small increase now proposed will only bring up their taxation to a par with that of adjacent districts recently settled.

18. A considerable part of the increase of revenue will result from the assessment of inferior soils, of which there are considerable tracts in the central part of the talooka. Under the prices formerly prevailing the cultivation of these soils would not pay: they were considered to be unarable, never having been cultivated within the memory of man, and were either held at a nominal assessment or were used by the nearest cultivator, or any one else that chose, for grazing, without being brought to account at all. This will explain to some extent the great excess in the area ascertained to be claimed as occupied by the Survey and that recorded in the accounts. The present high prices have rendered these poorer lands profitable for cultivation and the object frequently of keen competition at the settlement; thus the assessible area is very considerably increased.

---

* See Table at end of this letter.

19. The general result of the proposed settlement shows an increase on the revenue of last year of from Rs. 2,34,605 to Rs. 2,53,491, and besides Rs. 9,170 assessment of Government arable waste, much of which will be doubtless taken up. An immediate increase of revenue was the ordinary result of the settlement in the eastern talookas; so there is nothing unusual in the estimated result in the Walwa talooka.

20. Regarding the rates to be imposed there is less scope for doubt in this talooka than in most; for in physical characteristics it is almost identical with districts bounding it on two sides and in which the settlement has been successfully introduced.

21. I propose to settle the hill villages of this talooka, for the settlement of which on the old system no preparations have been made, and also those in the eastern frontier, the early settlement of which is advisable this season—in all about probably one-third of the talooka; the rate papers for the whole talooka cannot be completed in time for the settlement this year. The classification was only completed in the middle of the present season, and the making up the papers, before the completion of which I could not attempt to decide upon the rates, has only been very recently accomplished.

22. I append to this letter a statement of the prices prevailing at Kurar, the chief market of the south-western districts of Sattara, in January and June of each year from 1851. The materials for this statement I have obtained from the records of the talooka kutcherry.

23. I shall be obliged by your forwarding this letter to the Revenue Commissioner as soon as you conveniently can, that it may be disposed of as soon as possible.

STATEMENT *of Prices prevailing in the Market of* KURAR *in January and June of each year since* 1851. *The Sattara Seer is about 2 Pounds.*

Years.	Months.	Seers for One Rupee of—			
		Jowarree.	Wheat.	Grain.	Bajree.
1851..	January	39	31	37	35
	June	37	30	36	No data.
1852..	January	36	22	27	34
	June	34	29	28	No data.
1853..	January	30	26	24	30
	June	24	18	21	23
1854..	January	36	30	34	30
	June	22	17	17	No data.
1855..	January	24	20	17	23
	June	17	16	18	18
1856..	January	24	17	22	24
	June	29	21	30	27
1857..	January	32	21	28	31
	June	28	19	23	26
1858..	January	28	20	19	29
	June	25	20	22	23
1859..	January	26	18	20	25
	June	22	19	25	22
1860..	January	22	16	18	23
	June	20	15	14½	19
1861..	January	21	14	17	21
	June	18	15	12	18
1862..	January	16	15	15	15
	June	12	15	11	11
1863..	January	11	10	14	13
	May	10	9	10	9½

I have the honour to be, &c.

W. C. ANDERSON,
Supt. Revenue Survey and Assessment, S. M. C.

Superintendent's Office, Camp Adhole,
5th May 1863.

Revenue Survey and Assessment.

No. 2110 OF 1863.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Bombay Castle, 27th June 1863.

Letter from the REVENUE COMMISSIONER, S. D., No. 1376, dated 15th May 1863, with accompaniment, relative to the introduction of revised rates of Assessment into the Walwa talooka of the Sattara collectorate.

RESOLUTION.—His Excellency the Governor in Council approves and sanctions the rates of assessment which Major Anderson has proposed for the Walwa talooka, and which are recommended for adoption by the Revenue Commissioner and the Collector.

2. The right to impose hereafter an additional cess of one anna for every rupee of assessment for local purposes, the proceeds of which will be expended on roads and schools within the districts, should be reserved to Government. The power also of adding a water rate to the rates of assessment now sanctioned, should new works of irrigation be constructed, should also be reserved.

3. With reference to paragraph 4 of Mr. Hart's letter, the Governor in Council regrets to state that Government are unable to forward any of the Peruvian cotton seed to the Collector of Sattara. Only 32lbs. weight of this seed was received from the Home Government, and the whole of it was distributed at once to the Collectors of those districts which were known to be peculiarly adapted for the cultivation of cotton. The Secretary of State will, however, be requested to procure if possible further supplies of the Peruvian seed, and to forward them in time for next year's sowing. Should he do so, Mr. Chapman's request will be borne in mind.

Secretary to Government.

To

The REVENUE COMMISSIONER, S. D.

110076

00110076

Digitized with financial assistance from

H T Parekh FOUNDATION

An Initiative by HDFC

WITH YOU, RIGHT THROUGH

on 08 January, 2019